

Sponsor: Isabella Bolayon
Club: Neville High School
Senate Bill 3

AN ACT

TO: Are Rapists Worthy of Parental Rights?

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

In the United States, one in every five women will be raped at some point in her life. In fact, Louisiana ranks number 14 in cases of sexual assault, with one in every three-hundred and thirty-three women reported as rape victims. If these facts are not staggering enough, there is another element imbedded in each rape case—custody and visitation rights. According to CNN, 31 states—including Louisiana—allow a convicted rapist to sue for custody and visitation rights of his victim's child. States make the assumption that the convicted rapist would not want to gain custody of the child, but the threat of a lawsuit is used as a tool for gaining leverage against the victim. For instance, it is not uncommon for rapists to utilize this threat to get out of paying child support, threatening that they will apply for visitation or custody unless the child's mother agrees they do not have to pay any or significantly less than the current allotment. Moreover, if the rapist were to theoretically win the suit, the child and the victim would be forced to endure more psychological trauma. Thus, this bill is integral in protecting the rights of rape victims to ensure that they do not suffer from further abuse from their assailants.

SECTION II

This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2018. The convicted rapist will be prohibited from suing the victim for child custody or visitation rights and must provide adequate child support. This bill will be implemented by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. When children are of legal age, the rapist could sue for custody with the child's consent. Other sex crimes including battery, molestation, and more, will be taken into consideration when barring a parent from rights to their child.

SECTION III

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV

If the convict rapist fails to comply with policy, he/she will be subject to a fine of \$10,000 or more, along with possible prison time.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Justin McKinley
Club: Neville High School
Senate Bill 4

AN ACT

TO: Require Hand-Washing Postage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

It is universally understood that washing your hands is a quintessential event in enhancing personal hygiene, deterring the spread of fatal germs and illnesses, and substantially curving the likely-hood of food poisoning. However, despite this, Louisiana currently remains one of the 10 states not to address the mandatory need of "Employees must wash hands" sign in the health code. The likes of 40 states have recognized the importance of this inclusion, which is why I propose this bill. Knowing that handwashing is so paramount in a long, happy, and certainly healthy life. Then why are we, Louisiana, not doing everything we can to ensure this.

SECTION II

This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2018. All versions of the state food code, Title 51, will be formally revised: To include the requirement of food establishments to post "Employees must wash hands" signs where there are restrooms, food preparation areas, and other locations where sink facilities are located. This bill will be enforced by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

SECTION III

This bill will require 0 dollars in funding.

SECTION IV

Failure to comply will result in the same consequences as not strictly adhering to Title 51, pre-revision.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Michael Villordon
Club: Neville High School
Senate Bill 5

AN ACT

TO: Initiated state statute

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Initiated state statute is a form of the ballot initiative process that allows citizens to propose an initiative to the legislature. To put the bill forth, the proponents must gather 3% of the votes cast for the governor in the preceding gubernatorial election, excluding blanks. Once the required number of signatures are reached, the initiative goes to the legislature where they can enact, defeat, or amend the initiative. If the legislature fails to enact the proposed legislation, additional signatures equaling another 3% of the last gubernatorial vote must be collected in order to place the measure on the ballot. Put simply, if initiative sponsors believe that the legislature will not enact their proposed law, they should plan to collect signatures equaling 6% of the last gubernatorial vote. Indirect initiated state statute is already in place in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. This exact form of initiated state statute is in Ohio and Utah.

SECTION II

This bill will be implemented on January 1, 2018. From that date citizens will be able to propose legislation, which had the possibility of becoming law, given that they follow all requirements. This bill will be enforced and implemented by the Louisiana Department of Justice.

SECTION III

There is no funding required.

SECTION IV

There are no penalties required.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Noah Boudreau
Club: Captain Shreve High School
Senate Bill 8

AN ACT

TO: An act to grant Planned Parenthood a protected status, preventing it from becoming defunded

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Planned Parenthood is a health center network located across the country that provides important service to men, women, and children. Since it was formed, it has constantly been under attack by lawmakers who have tried to take away funding for it. Doing so would deprive millions of people important health services, like screenings for various cancers, such as breast cancer, prostate cancer, cervical cancer, and colon cancer. Also provided are contraceptive treatments, such as vasectomies, female sterilization, emergency contraceptive kits, condoms, IUD's (intrauterine device), and birth control pills. Among the services provided are STI/STD treatments to both women and men. Planned Parenthood also provides access to safe abortions through in-clinic procedures or at-home treatment, for pregnancies that have already begun, and Plan B for pregnancies that might begin. This shall have a yearly renewed status of protection by the legislature.

SECTION II

This bill, if put into elect, would be enacted immediately, and would prevent the funds accumulated by Planned Parenthood, through federal funding from Title X, from being taken away or diminished.

SECTION III

This bill requires no funding, as Planned Parenthood already receives money from the Title X Family Planning Program (Public Law 91-572).

SECTION IV

No consequences for breaking this, as it's not necessarily a law but a protection plan, though if it was ended, many people would lose access to necessary health services.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Parker Smith
Club: Captain Shreve High School
Senate Bill 9

AN ACT

TO: Offer free Syphilis Test to all High School Seniors Once a Year.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

This bill aims to prevent STDs in high schoolers before they graduate. Although Syphilis rates are on the decline in the country, Louisiana is still #1 in cases of the STD. This number could be greatly decreased by testing high school seniors for the disease. This is an optional test, and completely free for the student. To test the 42,432 seniors in Louisiana at an average of \$40 per test it would cost about \$1.7 million, and because not every student will opt into this program, the remaining funds would be used to pay administrators of the test and cover any additional costs. After all expenses it can be estimated to come out at around \$1.7 million. For students under the age of 18, a parent/guardian permission slip will need to be signed before the test is administered. Students would be informed if the test comes back positive and given information about treatment. Although this does not treat Syphilis, the tests are an important step towards treating the disease. These tests will not only save lives, but prevent this STD from being spread as the students leave for college or to join the workforce. Include the testing of STDs such as chlymdia and gonorrea for high school students age 15-18. Tests include swabs and can be done simultaenously. Funding will be provided for testing.

SECTION II

This bill will be implemented for the class of 2018, and repeated annually for the following classes. The test would be administered during school, in a similar manner as blood drives are done. Nurses would be hired from local hospitals to go to the schools for a day and administer the tests. They would be paid for their work using funds from the project's budget.

SECTION III

The 1.7 million needed will be taken from the healthcare budget, specifically the STD prevention budget. Any remaining money from this allocation will be put back into the STD prevention budget.

SECTION IV

Districts and schools are required to allow these test to be administered to students who opt in. Financial sanctions would be enacted against any school or district that does not allow these tests to take place.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Adam Driskill
Club: Captain Shreve High School
Senate Bill 12

AN ACT

TO: Require that public schools offer both abstinence and contraceptive based sexual education courses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Sexual education courses that are being taught in schools are missing key issues seen in the south. They are teaching abstinence based sex ed and young people are having children. The south has the highest teen pregnancy rate which is an issue. This bill would teach students ways to have safe sex to prevent children. This is not to influence students to have sex but at least to prevent unready parents. This means they would be taught about condoms, birth control, and any other form of safe sex that are needed. There would be a booklet that would be given to each school so that there is a standard. This will be a required course to take for grades 10, 11, and 12 and will be taught in health classes. Require forms be filled by parents before students are taught certain material regarding sexual education.

SECTION II

This bill would come into effect on the following year to all high schools. Then be taught to all student that year then have a set year were each new class is taught every year throughout high school.

SECTION III

There would only need to be about 5,000 dollars to be able to be able to print the booklet that the teachers would need to teach from.

SECTION IV

Schools will be punished by not being able to have sport teams or any clubs which would cause a decline for students wanting to go there.

SECTION V

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SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Jonathon Fritz
Co-Sponsor: James Sonnier
Club: Mandeville High School
Senate Bill 13

AN ACT

TO: Slashing Voter Fraud -Require voters to show a photo ID Card, which will be given to all registered voters who don't have photo ID, to cast a ballot.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

The intent of this bill is to curb voter fraud via absentee ballots, and the lack of identification required to vote in Louisiana. This bill will create a program to provide all registered voters with a government funded voter identification card, that will only be used for voting. As a result, this card must be displayed in order to cast a ballot in any election in Louisiana.

SECTION II

Photo taking stations will be set up quarterly at every public school in Louisiana, where all registered or non registered voters can go to get an identification card. Since many Louisiana citizens live in close proximity to a public school, public schools will be used as they stations to receive the identification cards. Voters with pre-existing Louisiana photo identification may use that to vote, and are not required to file for this free ID card. Starting on January 1, 2018, all voters must display photo ID. The free identification card may not be used as either a drivers license, or to buy alcohol/tobacco. All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION III

The maximum cost of this bill will be \$800,000. This cost will only exist if every resident in Louisiana decides to get this card, rather than use a drivers license. The funding will be taken from the \$1.6 billion allocated to general services from the budget.

SECTION IV

Louisiana citizens without photo identification will not be able to cast a ballot, either by mail or in person. All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION V

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SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Grace Dragna
Co-Sponsor: Soso Wane
Club: Mandeville High School
Senate Bill 15

AN ACT

TO: Increase the accessibility of HIV testing and care through the expansion of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Baton Rouge is the leading metropolitan area for AIDS cases per 100,000 people in the United States. The AIDS epidemic disproportionately affects those of lower socioeconomic class and minority groups, which is an issue that needs to be addressed. Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program seeks to provide funding to states to expand and provide core medical services including outpatient and ambulatory health services, AIDS pharmaceutical assistance, oral health care, early intervention services, health insurance premium and cost-sharing assistance, and medical case management. Support services, like referrals for health care and medical transportation, are also offered up to 25% of the grant. This program reaches more than 50 percent of people diagnosed with HIV, 83.4 percent of whom have achieved viral suppression. Metropolitan areas in Louisiana like New Orleans and Baton Rouge could particularly benefit from expanding the program's services to its citizens.

SECTION II

In order to receive funding from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, a state must create a plan of action to identify affected individuals and provide a path to medical services. This will increase accessibility to care for minority groups, younger people, and those who could not typically afford HIV testing. Louisiana's plan of action will be outlined as follows: [1] Funding from the RWHAP will be allocated to three places: homeless shelters, college campuses, and urgent care clinics. The funding will be distributed based on population and prevalence of HIV per capita in the area. [2] The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals will be responsible for determining how the grant should be used (i.e. what services should be emphasized) and overseeing the appropriate usage of funding from the program.

SECTION III

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program will fund the expansion through the Part B block grant to the state of Louisiana. Once the plan of action is approved, the RWHAP will use an algorithm to allocate funding to the state of Louisiana. In 2016, Louisiana received \$6,210,993 from the program, but with an outlined plan of action, the state could receive close to \$15 million annually (not including disaster relief funding from the RWHAP).

SECTION IV

Any facility deemed to be misappropriating funding will face legal action from the state of Louisiana.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Jason Henriquez
Co-Sponsor: Chase Erickson
Club: Mandeville High School
Senate Bill 16

AN ACT

TO: Incentivize Responsible Energy Consumption

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

The average residential energy consumption in Louisiana is 40% higher than the national average. This heinous waste of energy has a myriad of negative consequences that are dangerously tangible. Excessive energy usage is expending fossil fuels, releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and accelerating climate change. Energy costs are raising incessantly because of the overabundant demand for a shrinking supply. Household appliances are deteriorating at an unprecedented rate due to careless use. Our state currently provides tax credits to homeowners who retrofit their homes to become more energy efficient, but we do not provide any incentive to use energy responsibly. Louisiana uses the most energy per household in the entire country as a result. Household energy consumption can be reduced through various means. Switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs and reducing unnecessary outdoor lighting can tremendously mitigate energy expenditure. Purchasing energy efficient appliances can massively decrease energy consumption over time. Planting a tree can provide enough shade to reduce cooling costs by 25 percent. Opening windows can reduce the necessity of expensive air conditioning. Turning off lights and appliances when not being used can reduce energy costs by hundreds of dollars per household. These are only some of the many actions that can be taken to reduce residential consumption. However, citizens of Louisiana currently have little incentive to use their energy responsibly or alter their behaviors. There shall be an additional bracket for households with electric cars to account for their additional use.

SECTION II

Occupied Louisiana households that consume energy below the national annual average will receive a \$200 tax credit at the end of the 2017 fiscal year. Only one credit may be claimed per household. Any extension of the Responsible Energy Tax Credit past 2017 will be postponed until its provisions come into effect.

SECTION III

A 1.5 percent severance tax will be levied on electricity produced using fossil fuels. The revenue will be apportioned to the homeowners who have earned the Responsible Energy Tax Credit. The remaining funds, if any, will be invested in renewable energy research.

SECTION IV

Penalties are not applicable.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Grace Gilpin
Co-Sponsor: Morgan Ross
Club: University Lab School
Senate Bill 21

AN ACT

TO: Allow LA Citizens To Purchase Sanitary Products With Food Stamps

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

State residents involved in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or formal known as Food Stamps will be allowed to purchase sanitary products involving, toilet paper, tampons, pads, shampoo, deodorant, diapers, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and dental floss. Citizens relying on SNAP can often not afford to purchase items outside of their SNAP funds, by broadening the range of products an individual is able to purchase the SNAP program can better aid citizens in need. Pairing sanitary products with the purchase of food items under SNAP funds is the most efficient for the families in need as these two types of products are bought at the same time in the same location and creation of a new division simply for sanitary product aid would cost the government more money as well as be more difficult for families receiving the aid. These sanitary products are not luxury items an individual can live without and are important to sustaining life by improving hygiene and health. Currently the following items are available for purchase under the SNAP program: breads, cereals, fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, seeds, poultry and dairy products. To pair with this expansion due to the high price of many sanitary products, the food stamp total given to each household will be increased 5% per month. That would provide a family of 4 an extra \$32.45 per month. To continue with the endorsement and focus on nutrition, only this 5% increase will be eligible for spending on sanitary products. This limit guarantees that individuals will be unable to exploit this broadening of available purchase by choosing certain brands of sanitary products that could be deemed as opulent.

SECTION II

This bill will go into effect the semester following its passage.

SECTION III

To account for the raise in SNAP funds given, a 1% higher tax will be on alcohol, cigarettes, and e-cigarette products and accessories to further emphasize health.

SECTION IV

There are no penalties necessary as the jurisdiction falls completely under the Louisiana branch of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Peyton Gunn
Co-Sponsor: Sarah Grace Prestwood
Club: C.E. Byrd High School
Senate Bill 22

AN ACT

TO: An Act to Create Toll Roads on Louisiana Interstates

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

An extremely small percentage of Louisiana's roads are taxed for their use. Our state is not ranked by the national conference of state legislatures for our use of toll roads and the prices charged for them. This bill moves to tax interstates typically used by Louisiana commuters in their daily lives, such as I-220 in Shreveport, I-210 in Lake Charles, and I-310 in New Orleans. The tax would be a non-stop toll tax system with a \$.50 charge for non-stickered commuters and a \$.35 charge for stickered/tagged commuters. This money profited would be specifically turned around to strictly be divided evenly between our education system and our roads. In addition to education systems and roads, this will be evenly distributed with TOPS.

SECTION II

Construction to modify the roads would take about six months. In this time stickers would be distributed to commuters. Also in this six months, a department would be assembled to oversee the toll roads. This only affects roads that do not leave the state.

SECTION III

Money would be borrowed to pay for construction and would be paid back after the toll roads start turning profit. The money from the toll roads would also fund the new jobs that this project yields.

SECTION IV

N/A

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Rose Coats
Club: Haynes Academy
Senate Bill 31

AN ACT

TO: Establish a website extension for archiving adverse drug reactions

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Adverse Drug Reactions or ADRs are responsible for 3 to 7% of all hospitalizations in the US as of 2016. ADRs occur during 10 to 20% of hospitalizations; about 10 to 20% of hospitalization related ADRs are severe. (FDA) An ADR is when the combination of two or more medications has an adverse affect on the patient. This can range from mild discomfort to death. Currently doctors and pharmacists have to rely on prior knowledge or sift through millions of records to determine if two medications could react. Considering the millions if not billions of possible combinations of prescription and over-the-counter medications it is practically impossible for a doctor to know every combination and possible ADRs off the top of their head. This bill is to create a secure, reliable, streamlined way of enabling doctors to record ADRs that have occurred, their possible side effects. Therefore creating doctors and patients that are more informed about possible effects of medications and what medications not to combine. This will also help doctors pinpoint if a symptom is an ADR or separate issue and help influence future action. This could potentially cut down on healthcare costs, and save the state millions in healthcare.

SECTION II

An extension to the resources tab on the Louisiana government website will be created and maintained by the current web staff. The extension would be connected to the database for licensed doctors, nurses, and pharmacists and only those listed on the database could enter or change information. However, everyone will be able to see the information which would not contain anything that violates doctor patient confidentiality. The person who listed the information would have their name on the information as the (doctor, nurse etc..) so if there is need for more questions between doctors they could be contacted. The American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Pharmacists Association, and the American Board of Nursing Specialties will be alerted of its creation and asked to communicate with the web technicians to improve the site. The site will be searchable by one or more medications or by entering a symptom. The initial information will be entered by one of the web technicians by using the outdated mining system so medical professionals will have one source for this information.

SECTION III

No funding required

SECTION IV

None

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Benton Alford
Co-Sponsor: Jake Rovira
Club: Catholic High School
Senate Bill 32

AN ACT

TO: Increase Funds Allocated for Nuclear Energy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Louisiana consumes more energy per capita than any other state in the United States. In an effort to make Louisiana more energy efficient, this bill will allocate more funds to nuclear power. According to Entergy-Nuclear, the River Bend Nuclear Power Plant in St. Francisville, Louisiana produces 974 megawatts, which is approximately 10% of the energy demand in the state. In St. Charles parish, Waterford 3 nuclear power plant produces about 1,150 megawatts, which is about 12% of the energy demand of the state. This bill will allocate approximately \$9 billion from other non-renewable energy resources in the state's budget to build a new nuclear energy plant in Louisiana producing about the same amount of power that the previously mentioned plants currently do. This will greatly increase the renewable energy output in Louisiana. Not only will this bill create more efficient power, possibly saving the state money, but it will also contribute to the global effort for more renewable energy. Put this nuclear plant in the Monroe region.

SECTION II

The allocation of funds will be go into effect on January 1, 2018. This bill will allocate state funds toward the creation of an application for a third nuclear plant in Louisiana. Should the application be accepted, 9 billion dollars will be transferred to Entergy in order to fund the construction and maintenance of the plant.

SECTION III

There is no funding required. Funds are simply being allocated to nuclear power.

SECTION IV

No penalties required.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Dylan Autin
Co-Sponsor: Logan Fernandez
Club: Lakeshore High School
Senate Bill 33

AN ACT

TO: Further Incentivize the use of Electric Vehicles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

The damage that global climate change is on course to cause is unprecedented, and must be slowed and stopped by any means necessary. If global climate change is allowed to continue, temperatures will continue to rise, precipitation patterns will change, there will be more droughts and heat waves, sea levels will rise, and hurricanes will become much stronger and more intense. Specifically in the Southeast, sea levels will rise and erosion will accelerate. Extreme heat will affect health, agriculture, energy and more in Louisiana. Water availability will be decreased to a point that our economy and agriculture begin to diminish. A large accelerating factor of global climate change is the emission of CO2 by transportation vehicles. Vehicles driven by U.S. citizens are responsible for two thirds of the CO2 emitted into the atmosphere from the transportation sector. The average gasoline powered vehicle will emit more than 11,400 pounds of CO2 into the atmosphere every year, compared to around 4,800 for creating electricity to power electric vehicles driving the same distance. Obviously, electric vehicles are much cleaner for the environment than standard gasoline-powered vehicles. Today's commuter electric vehicles can exceed 100 miles using only around 30 kWh of energy. Each kWh of energy costs on average only 8.9 cents in Louisiana, which equates to only \$2.67 to drive 100 miles with an average electric vehicle. Not only does converting to electric vehicles make environmental sense, but converting to electric vehicles also makes economic sense. We propose to install government-funded electric vehicle chargers in the parking lots of areas of high interest in large Louisiana cities.

SECTION II

The amount of electric vehicle chargers provided for each parish will depend on the average population density. The parish with the highest population density will receive more chargers to place in high interest locations. Each parish that receives electric vehicle chargers will gather a committee in order to decide the most effective locations to place the chargers. The location of each set of electric vehicle chargers must be passed by a 2/3rds vote in the committee. Locations for each charger must be decided by December 1, 2017. The electric vehicle chargers will start to be built by January 1, 2018.

SECTION III

This bill will require an increase on the state gas tax by a quarter of a cent in order to raise five million dollars. This tax would automatically be implemented after the passage of this bill. The five million dollars will go towards building and powering the charging stations. Parking Garage charging stations cost 5000 dollars each to build and install, which would allow us to build 800 charging stations across the state with a remaining budget of one million to maintain the charging stations and to pay for the electricity used by the charging stations. If costs are lower than expected, we will use the remainder of the budget to build more charging stations. The money being earned by the gas tax in following years will go towards the construction of new charging stations and the maintenance of already existing charging stations. In order to cover the cost of the electricity used in the charging process, the charging sessions shall be priced at 1.05 times the cost of the electricity used. The surplus funds shall be used to expand the charging station program.

SECTION IV

If a city or parish refuses to participate in this program, the gas tax in their area will be raised from \$0.0025 to \$0.0050 per gallon. If a city that formerly refused to participate in this program decides that they wish to participate, the gas tax will be lowered again to \$0.0025 per gallon.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Jack Rittenberry
Club: Catholic High School
Senate Bill 34

AN ACT

TO: Eliminate LGBT Discrimination in the Workplace

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Currently, discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation or gender identity is legal in the state of Louisiana. From the years 2004 to 2008 a state law existed to prevent discrimination in state employment until it was repealed, and in 2016 Governor John Bel Edwards attempted to prevent LGBT discrimination in the workplace through an executive order. This was struck down by a district judge as it was an attempt to create a law through an executive order. In the United States, twenty-three states have a similar law eliminating discrimination by sexual orientation and gender identity in all employment, and thirteen states have some sort of LGBT anti-discrimination legislation. This bill would put Louisiana in the ranks of the twenty-three other states with no discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all employment.

SECTION II

It shall be unlawful employment practice for an employer— a) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his/her compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of sexual orientation or gender identity. b) to limit, segregate, or classify his/her employees in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his/her status as an employee, because of such individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. c) to fail or refuse to refer for employment, or otherwise to discriminate against, any individual because of sexual orientation or gender identity, or to classify or refer for employment any individual on the basis of his/her sexual orientation or gender identity. This does not apply the private sector.

SECTION III

This bill will require no funding.

SECTION IV

Any employer found to promote or forward discrimination against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity will be required to pay a settlement to the employees who have been discriminated against.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Chris Alumbaugh
Club: Catholic High School
Senate Bill 35

AN ACT

TO: Split Line Electoral Reform

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

We are seeing a rise in partisan extremism in this country and this state. Elected officials on both side of the aisle are drifting further from the center, leading to increased gridlock. The purpose of this bill is to attack a root cause of this problem by creating a fairer and more competitive electoral system by determining the boundaries of state and US representatives using the shortest split line method. This method creates districts by splitting a given area in half, using the shortest line to do so, and repeating until the desired number of districts are acquired. Switching to this method would create a more responsive and accountable political class, since they will no longer be able to rely on safe, one-party districts that prop up this troubled system.

SECTION II

Prior to the 2020 census, an algorithm will be devised by an independent commission and beginning with the next time districts need to be redrawn (2023), the algorithm will be used to draw districts. Additionally, all representatives whose district is redrawn without their residence will have the option of being grandfathered into their old district or running in their new one, provided they seek reelection.

SECTION III

Onetime funding for the development of the algorithm pulled from the miscellaneous section of the budget.

SECTION IV

While there is no law here to be explicitly violated, tampering with the algorithm or the boundaries themselves would constitute election fraud.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Camille Vitrano
Co-Sponsor: Luisa Zavala
Club: Haynes Academy
Senate Bill 36

AN ACT

TO: Incentivizing equal pay for all races and genders

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

This bill's main goal is to equalize pay between different genders and different races. For hundreds of years women have been fighting to have basic fundamental rights men were handed at birth. In 1963, the equal pay act was signed by John F Kennedy to help close the wage gap. Although this was signed into law almost 50 years ago, the gap between genders is still present, especially in Louisiana. On average white women receive 65 cents to a man's dollar in Louisiana, and the average gets even lower for women of color. We plan on doing this by incentivizing being able to show proof that women and men of similar job responsibilities are being paid the same wage and companies encouraging the sharing of wage information.

SECTION II

Companies will be incentivized by tax breaks to eliminate pay disparities between people of different genders and race who perform similar jobs and have similar education, training, and experience. Companies must produce pay information data regarding the gender, race, and national origin of employees for use in order to receive these tax breaks. Companies should encourage the sharing of wage information. This bill would prevent employers from retaliating against employees for inquiring about or disclosing wage information at a company.

SECTION III

There is no funding necessary.

SECTION IV

There will be no penalties.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Vincent Honey
Co-Sponsor: Matthew Gravios
Club: McKinley Senior High School
Senate Bill 41

AN ACT

TO: Improve Legal Denial of Paternity

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

In many cases, sex is a recreational activity. Neither party should be subject to life changing consequences because of this act, at least those consequences that are within the realm of their control. On average the age at which consensual sex beings fluctuates between sixteen and seventeen years of age. This bill will make it mandatory for all males to be given the option, once they have reached the age of sixteen, to sign an Affidavit of Paternal Denial, surrendering all paternal rights and responsibilities in the event of any pregnancy. It will remain in effect until such a time that the signatory is prepared to sign an Affidavit of Corrections with a fee of \$27.50, prior to registry of the child's or children's birth certificate with the Vital Records Registry, which will grant them the rights and responsibilities of paternity for the specific child or children they sign for. While it is the mother's right to keep a child, as she does have the right to her own bodily autonomy, forcing someone who makes it clear that they do not want the social or financial responsibility of having a child to be a resource for the mother's use is a miscarriage of justice. A council under the jurisdiction of the Vital Records Registry will be formed locally per parish. The size of the council will be determined by the respective teen pregnancy rate per parish. This council will be in charge of ensuring males learn about the form when receiving one's driver's permit or at the age of sixteen, whichever comes first. The form may be signed any time before the applicant's 18th birthday, and will provide protection until one's 26th birthday. If this date occurs in between the date of conception and birth, the form will not take effect. The form will allow the male legal deniability of one child, along with payment of the below-mentioned fine, and will not take effect in the case of sperm donation. In the event of fathering twins, the form will apply to both children. In the event that the pregnancy is terminated for any reason, the male will be required to forfeit a sum of money equal to 49% of the operation. If the child is forfeited for adoption, the fine will only be 500 USD, half of which will go to the biological mother, and half to the adoptive parent(s), and the biological father will still be under protection of the form. Inheritance is allowed to be given to the child, unless it conflicts with the terms of the Affidavit of Paternal Denial. In the event of adoption inheritance, current inheritance laws will take effect. This bill does not seek to encourage unsafe sex practices, but seeks to emphasize the magnitude of fathering a child.

SECTION II

The forms will be maintained by the Louisiana Vital Records Registry. They will become available on August 1st, 2017. They will be mandatorily distributed through public schools, and private schools will be given the option to distribute these forms. They will also be available at hospitals and clinics. Regarding the content of the forms, they will clearly state that in the event of a pregnancy, the male in the situation will be required to forfeit a negotiable fine of 500-1000 USD. It can be payed in person or by mail to the Centralized Collection Unit, where the funds will then be transferred to the biological mother. If the fine remains unpaid after 6 months of the order, the father will be subject to normal child support payment consequences. In the event of adoption or abortion, a year will be permissible for the fine to be paid, the same consequences apply.

SECTION III

No funding will be required seeing that there is a fee in place to sign the Correction of Affidavit and that Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavits executed in the hospital at the time of birth are submitted to the Vital Records Registry with the birth record by hospital staff and are processed and filed without charge.

SECTION IV

Penalties for withholding these forms will be a fine exceeding no more than 500 USD.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Dalton Major
Club: Catholic High School
Senate Bill 42

AN ACT

TO: Expand The Use of Background Checks to All Non-Licensed and Online Firearm Retailers

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Since the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan in 1981, gun violence has become a prominent issue nationally. In a state like Louisiana this debate is more complicated than it is nationally. Louisiana is home to one of the world's most unique and beautiful natural environments and fearless hunters. In order to maintain our status as the true American Sportsman Paradise while keeping our states citizens and visitors safe, it is imperative that we expand the use of background checks across all federally non-licensed and online firearm retailers. 19 states and the District of Columbia have implemented similar background check systems. In these states, following the implementation of these laws, domestic gun-related deaths rates dropped by 47% and law enforcement gun-related deaths dropped by 53%. Gun-related suicides dropped by 47%, and illegal gun trafficking rates dropped by 43%. These laws have not only made the public safer, but have not prevented their citizens from enjoying their second amendment rights. Louisiana must do the same.

SECTION II

Following the passage of this bill all gun-purchases in the state of Louisiana will be subject to background checks before a final sale is made. This will apply to gun shows and online retailers. In order to streamline this process, a stronger, more thorough database on the criminal and health record of gun-buyers will be created. This database will follow all privacy laws. Retailers will, with consent, input the drivers license number of a perspective buyer into the database and the background check will be conducted. This streamlines the process, creates safety barriers, and achieves the mission of our state in providing the safest possibly environment for our citizens. A penalty system will also be created; gun related crimes or accidents would be noted on records and limit what kind of gun a said person could buy, or if they could purchase a gun at all. Penalties would range from a higher fee to a ban on purchasing firearms.

SECTION III

The database will be created through 1 cent sales tax increase. Additional revenue will fund a gun safety awareness campaign for the state of Louisiana. The campaign will encourage gun safety for all gun owners.

SECTION IV

Retailers that fail to comply with the new law would face a \$1000 fee for every gun sold without proper background checks and risk imprisonment.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Dwayne Crenshaw
Club: College Track
Senate Bill 46

AN ACT

TO: Reform the response time for local incidents that occur within neighborhoods.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

The purpose of my bill is to reform the time that it takes for a local incident to be addressed and/ or handled . For example, in one study it took on average six to eight months for a street light in a neighborhood to be fixed , because of the delayed response time for the reparation of the lights, multiple accidents occurred . With this bill I will mandate that response times be reduced to two days - two week period to respond, depending upon the severity of the issue.

SECTION II

Starting January 2019 the DPW(Department Of Public Works) will be required to remodel their handbooks to include the new time restrictions. All employees will be required to study the handbook and sign stating that they agree to the new alterations that have been made to their handbook. Their signature will be them stating they understand their new time restriction that they must now work with. Volunteering positions will be open and they will be on call in case they are needed, for example the volunteer will be called in if someone calls in sick or have an emergency, their work will continue and won't affect response times.

SECTION III

No financing is required .

SECTION IV

If the Bill becomes law the penalty for not abiding by the the law will be mandatory retraining , and if after the retraining, if the company continues to have have time delays the person(s) will be fined a small amount from their personal check .

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

Sponsor: Harrison Ferachi
Co-Sponsor: Rosemary Boutwell
Club: Episcopal School of Baton Rouge (Episcopal High School)
Senate Bill 57

AN ACT

TO: Protection Against Harmful Reparative Therapy Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Conversion therapy, or otherwise known as "ex-gay" or "reparative" therapy, is a form of treatment administered to gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons for the purpose of changing their sexual orientation to heterosexual. Such a practice consists of adverse events such as emotionally damaging counseling, the forced disposal of all materials that remind one of their sexuality (whether that be journals or a picture with a former partner), and dangerous and torturous physical events that include electroshock therapy and other "aversive treatments." Not only is it harmful, but there is no evidence supporting its effectiveness: The American Psychological Association has argued that there are "no studies of adequate rigor to conclude whether or not SOCE [conversion therapy] do or do not work to change a person's sexual orientation." Rather, the APA has found that there are studies which confirm that this therapy causes more negative effects such as "depression." No current law exists in the State of Louisiana to prohibit this harmful practice; therefore, this Act calls for the (a) criminalization of the voluntary and involuntary subjection of a minor to a service for the purpose of reversing his or her sexual orientation and (b) the enactment of a service allowing any citizen the ability to anonymously report the rendering of this service. With these two proposed actions, this Act can effectively protect sexual minority youth from harmful practices.

SECTION II

First, this Act seeks to amend Section 93(a) of Title 14 of the Revised Statutes, "Cruelty to juveniles, adding, "The intentional or criminally negligent subjection of a minor to any service claiming to reverse his or her sexual orientation through counseling and hazardous treatments ("SOCE," "conversion therapy," etc.)" as a form of cruelty to minors, punishable by subsection-D of RS 14:93. Second, this Act seeks to expand the capabilities of the existing Investigative Services hotline operated by the Department of Children and Family Services to include reports of conversion therapy. The expansion will allow the services to be accessible through three main routes of initially-anonymous communication: (a) a telephone number that can easily be recognized, (b) an SMS-messaging service that can easily be recognized, and (c) an online messaging service for those without access to a telephone. Trained and state-employed operators will answer the communication methods under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Family Services. After being given information such as the alleged name of the organization and its location, the employee will securely turn over the information to the Office of Juvenile Justice, who will assist the minor with legal proceedings.

SECTION III

No funding outside of that which is responsible for the enforcement of RS 14:93 shall be necessary for the addition of this form of cruelty in subsection-A. However, funding may need to be increased to expand the forms of communication of the Investigative Services hotline: the addition of SMS and web messaging services may require the use of a private entity or subscription service. Regardless, the enforcement of this Bill shall not be a financial burden on the Department of Children and Family Services.

SECTION IV

Should a parent subject a minor to conversion therapy, the punishments shall be administered as outlined in subsection-D of RS 14:93: a fine no more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment with or without hard labor not exceeding ten years, or a combination of the two; the parents will also be charged with child endangerment and/or child abuse.

SECTION V

If any provision of the Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid the invalidity does not affect the other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of the Act are severable.

SECTION VI

All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed

President of the Senate
Abigail Ezell

Speaker of the House
Ben Smith

Governor
Sarah Procopio

